

SUSANA MARTINEZ Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Surface Water Quality Bureau

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Certificated Mail – Return Receipt Requested



RYAN FLYNN Cabinet Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE Deputy Secretary

ERIKA SCHWENDER
Director
Resource Protection Division

April 18, 2014

Mr. Michael J. Fidal, General Manager BHP San Juan Coal Company La Plata Mine P.O. Box 561 Waterflow, New Mexico 87421

Re: San Juan Coal Company, La Plata Mine; Minor Individual Permit; SIC 1221; NPDES Compliance Evaluation Inspection; NM0029505; March 18, 2014

Dear Mr. Fidal:

Enclosed please find a copy of the report and check list for the referenced inspection that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted at your facility on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This inspection report will be sent to the USEPA in Dallas for their review. These inspections are used by USEPA to determine compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in accordance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

Introduction, treatment scheme, and problems noted during this inspection are discussed in the "Further Explanations" section of the inspection report.

You are encouraged to review the inspection report, required to correct any problems noted during the inspection, and advised to modify your operational and/or administrative procedures, as appropriate. If you have comments on or concerns with the basis for the findings in the NMED inspection report, please contact us (see the address below) in writing within 30 days from the date of this letter. Further, you are encouraged to notify in writing both the USEPA and NMED regarding modifications and compliance schedules at the addresses below:

Racquel Douglas, MS, ET US Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI Enforcement Branch (6EN-WM) 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75202-2733 Bruce Yurdin
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau,
Point Source Regulation Section
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

NM0029505 - La Plata Mine April 18, 2014 Page 2

If you have any questions about this inspection report, please contact Erin Trujillo at 505-827-0418 or at erin.trujillo@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

/s/Bruce J. Yurdin

Bruce J. Yurdin Program Manager Point Source Regulation Section Surface Water Quality Bureau

cc: Rashida Bowlin, USEPA (6EN-W) by e-mail
Gladys Gooden-Jackson, USEPA (6EN-WC) by e-mail
Carol Peters-Wagnon, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Racquel Douglas, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail
Brent Larsen, USEPA (6WQ-PP) by e-mail
Robert Italiano, NMED District II; by e-mail
Dave Clark, Coal Mine Reclamation, Mining & Minerals Division, EM&NRD by e-mail

Form Approved OMB No. 2040-0003 Approval Expires 7-31-85



NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding																								
Transaction Code NPDES										ī		yr/mo/day					Inspec. Type Inspect					or	Fac	Туре
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Inspection Work Days Facility Evaluation Rat						ating BI					QA					Reserved								
67 69 70 4]	71			N	N 72		N 73 74			75		80				80			
	Section B: Facility Data																							
POTW name and NPDES permit number) BHP Billiton/San Juan Coal Company/La Plata Mine, La Plata, New ~1100 hours / 03/18/2014 Marc											nit Effective Date arch 1, 2009													
Mexico 87418. West of Farmington on U.S. Hwy 64, travel 17 miles north on NM 170, turn right on mine access road. San Juan County. Exit Time/Date ~1500 hours / 03/18/2014									Permit Expiration Date February 28, 2014															
Nam	Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Warran Diday Environmental Specialist DID Dilliton / 505 508 4275 cell 505 215 0106																							
-Warren Rider, Environmental Specialist, BHP Billiton / 505-598-4275, cell 505-215-9196 -Steven Perkins, Superintendent, Permitting & Technical Services, BHP Billiton / 505-598-2821/ Cell 505-215-8018 -Paul Nazary Superintendent Environment & Regulatory Affairs, BHP Billiton / 505-598-2217/Cell Locked Gate on Mine Access Road Latitude: 36.972977° Longitude: -108.166091°									<u>l</u>															
	505-801-7745 me, Address of Responsible Official/1	Fitle/Ph	one and E	av Nu	mher												SI	C 122	21					
Mi	chael J. Fidal, General Mar	nager	/ BHP	San	Juar								Con	acted										
	ta Mine, P.O. Box 561, W 00 / Fax 505-598-4380	aterfl	ow, Ne	w M	exico	o 874	421 /	1-5	505-5	98-	Yes	;		No	*									
720	70 / Tux 303 370 4300																							
Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)																								
S	Permit	S	Flow M	1 easui	rement	ent				OI	peratio	erations & Maintenance				N	N CSO/SSO							
M	Records/Reports	N			Ionitoring Program			N	Sludge Handling/Disposal					N	N Pollution Prevention									
S	Facility Site Review	N	Comp	liance	Sched	lules			N	P	Pretreatment					N	₹							
S	Effluent/Receiving Waters	N	Labora													N	N Other:							
			Section I	D: Sur	nmary	of Fi	nding	s/Coi	mment	ts (At	tach a	dditio	nal sh	eets if	nece	essary)	1							
1. See attached report and further explanations.																								
Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s) Erin S. Trujillo /s/Erin S. Trujillo						Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax NMED/SWQB/505-827-0418								Date 04/18/2014										
Signature of Management QA Reviewer Sarah Holcomb /s/ Sarah Holcomb						Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers NMED/SWQB/505-827-2798									Date 04/18/2014									
						Ш_																		

BHP San Juan Coal Company – La Plata Mine - NM0029505	PERMIT NO. NM0029505							
SECTION A - PERMIT VERIFICATION								
PERMIT SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSES OBSERVATIONS S M U NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED No.) DETAILS: Permit has expired. Phase III bond has not been released for La Plata Mine. BHP renewal application was submitted in a letter dated 08/30/2013.								
1. CORRECT NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF PERMITTEE (See address on EPA Form 3560 and applicate	tion) □ Y ⊠ N □ NA							
2. NOTIFICATION GIVEN TO EPA/STATE OF NEW DIFFERENT OR INCREASED DISCHARGES	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
3. NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISCHARGE POINTS AS DESCRIBED IN PERMIT (See application)	□ y ⊠ n □ na							
4. ALL DISCHARGES ARE PERMITTED	⊠ y □ n □ na							
SECTION B - RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING EVALUATION								
RECORDS AND REPORTS MAINTAINED AS REQUIRED BY PERMIT. DETAILS: Part I.A of Permit requires flow monthly ave and daily max reporting DMRs and reclamation inspection (study)reports 1/Quarter reporting w/DMR. BHP Billiton's NetDMR Subscriber agreement was approved on April 7, 2011.								
1. ANALYTICAL RESULTS CONSISTENT WITH DATA REPORTED ON DMRs. No analytical monitoring required	d. □Y□N ⊠NA							
2. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES DATA ADEQUATE AND INCLUDE.	□s □ m □ u ⊠ NA							
a) DATES, TIME(S) AND LOCATION(S) OF SAMPLING	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
b) NAME OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING SAMPLING	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
c) ANALYTICAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
d) RESULTS OF ANALYSES AND CALIBRATIONS.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
e) DATES AND TIMES OF ANALYSES.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
f) NAME OF PERSON(S) PERFORMING ANALYSES.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
3. LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION AND MAINTENANCE RECORDS ADEQUATE.	□s □ m □ u ⊠ NA							
4. PLANT RECORDS INCLUDE SCHEDULES, DATES OF EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. Reclamation Ins	pections ⊠ S □ M □ U □ NA							
5. EFFLUENT LOADINGS CALCULATED USING DAILY EFFLUENT FLOW AND DAILY ANALYTICAL DATA.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
SECTION C - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE								
TREATMENT FACILITY PROPERLY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED. S M U NA (FURTHER DETAILS: Reclamation Inspections	R EXPLANATION ATTACHED <u>No</u>)							
1. TREATMENT UNITS PROPERLY OPERATED.	⊠ S □ M □ U □ NA							
2. TREATMENT UNITS PROPERLY MAINTAINED.	⊠s □m □u □na							
3. STANDBY POWER OR OTHER EQUIVALENT PROVIDED .	□s □m □u ⊠ na							
4. ADEQUATE ALARM SYSTEM FOR POWER OR EQUIPMENT FAILURES AVAILABLE.	□s □m □u ⊠ NA							
5. ALL NEEDED TREATMENT UNITS IN SERVICE	⊠s □m □u □na							
6. ADEQUATE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS PROVIDED.	□s □m □u ⊠na							
7. SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIES INVENTORY MAINTAINED.	□s □m □u ⊠ na							
8. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL AVAILABLE. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES ESTABLISHED. PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT CONTROL ESTABLISHED.	□ Y □ N ⊠ NA □ Y □ N ⊠ NA □ Y □ N ⊠ NA							

BHP San Juan Coal Company – La Plata Mine - NM0029505	PERMIT NO. NM0029505							
SECTION C - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONT'D)								
9. HAVE BYPASSES/OVERFLOWS OCCURRED AT THE PLANT OR IN THE COLLECTION SYSTEM IN THE LAST YEAR? IF SO, HAS THE REGULATORY AGENCY BEEN NOTIFIED? HAS CORRECTIVE ACTION BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL BYPASSES/OVERFLOWS?	□ y ⊠ n □ na □ y □ n ⊠ na □ y □ n ⊠ na							
10.HAVE ANY HYDRAULIC OVERLOADS OCCURRED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT? IF SO, DID PERMIT VIOLATIONS OCCUR AS A RESULT?	□ y ⊠ n □ na □ y □ n ⊠ na							
SECTION D - SELF-MONITORING								
PERMITTEE SELF-MONITORING MEETS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. DETAILS: Permit does not require analytical monitoring. No samples taking in compliance wit conducted/required/reported. Quarterly inspection/reporting further explained in Section I	th reclamation inspection							
1. SAMPLES TAKEN AT SITE(S) SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
2. LOCATIONS ADEQUATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
3. FLOW PROPORTIONED SAMPLES OBTAINED WHEN REQUIRED BY PERMIT.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
4. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES COMPLETED ON PARAMETERS SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.	□ y □n ⊠ na							
5. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES PERFORMED AT FREQUENCY SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.	□ y □ n ⊠ nA							
6. SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURES ADEQUATE	□ y □ n ⊠ nA							
a) SAMPLES REFRIGERATED DURING COMPOSITING.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
b) PROPER PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES USED.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
c) CONTAINERS AND SAMPLE HOLDING TIMES CONFORM TO 40 CFR 136.3.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
7. IF MONITORING AND ANALYSES ARE PERFORMED MORE OFTEN THAN REQUIRED BY PERMIT, ARE THE RESULTS REPORTED IN PERMITTEE'S SELF-MONITORING REPORT?	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
SECTION E - FLOW MEASUREMENT								
PERMITTEE FLOW MEASUREMENT MEETS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. \boxtimes S \square M \square U \square NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED <u>No</u>) DETAILS:								
PRIMARY FLOW MEASUREMENT DEVICE PROPERLY INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED. TYPE OF DEVICE <u>Estimate using Engineering Methods (SEDCAD 4 / NRCS Curve-Number Model)</u>	⊠ y □ n □ na							
2. FLOW MEASURED AT EACH OUTFALL AS REQUIRED.	⊠ y □ n □ na							
3. SECONDARY INSTRUMENTS (TOTALIZERS, RECORDERS, ETC.) PROPERLY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
4. CALIBRATION FREQUENCY ADEQUATE. RECORDS MAINTAINED OF CALIBRATION PROCEDURES. CALIBRATION CHECKS DONE TO ASSURE CONTINUED COMPLIANCE.	⊠ y □ n □ na □ y □ n ⊠ na □ y □ n ⊠ na							
5. FLOW ENTERING DEVICE WELL DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND FREE OF TURBULENCE.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
6. HEAD MEASURED AT PROPER LOCATION.	□ y □ n ⊠ na							
7. FLOW MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT ADEQUATE TO HANDLE EXPECTED RANGE OF FLOW RATES.	⊠ y □ n □ na							
SECTION F – LABORATORY								
PERMITTEE LABORATORY PROCEDURES MEET PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.	EXPLANATION ATTACHED No.							
1. EPA APPROVED ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES USED (40 CFR 136.3 FOR LIQUIDS, 503.8(b) FOR SLUDGES)	□ y □ N ⊠ NA							

BHP Billiton Limited San Juan Coal Company – La Plata Mine Compliance Evaluation Inspection NPDES Permit No. NM0029505 March 18, 2014

Further Explanations

Introduction

On March 18, 2014, a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted by Erin S. Trujillo, accompanied by Sarah Holcomb, both of the State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) at the BHP Billiton Limited, San Juan Coal Company, La Plata Mine located approximately 17 miles north of Farmington, near La Plata, New Mexico in San Juan County. San Juan Coal Company La Plata Mine is classified as a minor discharger under the federal Clean Water Act, Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program and is assigned permit No. NM0029505. This permit authorizes discharges to unclassified tributaries (Camp Almost, Cinder Gulch, Halfway Wash, Little Cinder Gulch, McDermott Arroyo, Montoya Arroyo, and Northgate Arroyo) subject to Segment 20.6.4.98 NMAC, thence to the La Plata River, thence to the San Juan River, both in Segment 20.6.4.402 NMAC, of the San Juan Basin.

The NMED performs a certain number of CEIs for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) each year. The purpose of this inspection is to provide USEPA with information to evaluate the permittee's compliance with the NPDES permit. This report is based on review of files maintained by the permittee and NMED, on-site observation by NMED personnel, and verbal information provided by the permittee's representatives.

An entrance interview was conducted with Warren Rider, Environmental Specialist; Steven Perkins, Superintendent, Permitting & Technical Services; and Paul Nazaryk, Superintendent Environment & Regulatory Affairs of BHP Billiton at 300 W. Arrington Street, Farmington, New Mexico 87401 at approximately 1100 hours on the day of the inspection. The inspector made introductions, presented credentials and discussed the purpose of the inspection. The inspectors and permittee's representatives toured the mine. Following the tour, an exit interview was conducted on site. The inspectors left the mine entrance (locked gate) at approximately 1500 hours on the day of the inspection.

BHP Billiton Limited, San Juan Coal Company submitted an Notice of Intent on February 10, 2009 (Active NPDES Tracking No. NMR05GF82) to obtain permit coverage under the 2008 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for industrial stormwater (previous and expired NPDES Tracking No. NMR05A746 NOI was submitted December 29, 2000). Discharges from the La Plata Haul Road are covered by the MSGP. An industrial stormwater MSGP CEI was not conducted on the day of this inspection.

Treatment Scheme

La Plata Mine shut down in 2002 after 42 million tons of coal was removed for use at the San Juan Generating Station. The mine is in the process of reclamation of the removed 1,700 acres of coal pits. The reclamation includes re-contouring (creating rolling hills and valleys) and re-vegetation with native species.

The permit allows discharges from the following permitted outfalls: 003, 004, 005, 006, 009, 010, 012, 015, 016, 018, 019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 026, 027, 028, 029, 030, 031, and 032 associated with various size drainage basins at the mine. Part I.A of the 2009 Permit requires that the permittee to estimate and

report flow (million gallons per day (MGD). The permittee uses on-site rain gauge data, basin acreage and NRCS Curve Model to estimate runoff for each outfall.

Since the effective date of this permit, the permittee has reported no discharge except for January 2013. Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) were submitted for January 2013 with flow estimates that varied between 0.050 and 4.577 MGD for Outfalls 003, 004, 005, 012, 016, 019, 020, 021, 023, 026, 027, 028, 029, 030, 032. Outfalls 006, 015, 018, 022, 031 do not discharge--runoff is contained within permanent impoundments or depressions. The mine's renewal application does not list Outfalls 009 and 010; and adds 15 outfalls labeled A thru K and M thru P due to removed or modified drainage basins within the mine permit boundaries.

Technology-based effluent limits (e.g., pH and settleable solids) have been replaced with a Sediment Control Plan (SCP) per 40 CFR Section 434, Subpart H – Western Alkaline Coal Mine. The SCP specifies best management practices designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to control pollutants in precipitation related discharges.

Section B - Recordkeeping and Reporting Evaluation - Overall rating of "Marginal"

Regarding the reclamation inspections and reporting, Footnote *1 of Part I.A of the Permit states:

Footnotes:

- *1. The permittee shall conduct reclamation inspections within the drainage areas associated with the outfalls list above in conjunction with vegetation and erosion studies no less than once/quarter. An inspection report for each associated outfall shall be submitted with the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) every quarter as described in section B below. Each reclamation inspection report shall include, at a minimum, the following items:
- (1) The personnel who conduct the inspections.
- (2) Date(s) on which inspection was performed.
- (3) A written summary of major observations, including observation of no deficiency.
- (4) Actions that should be taken to correct noted deficiencies.
- (5) Photo documentation of finding if necessary. And,
- (6) The signature of delegated officer.

Part I.B (Reporting of Monitoring Results) of the Permit states:

- 1. Reporting periods shall end on the last day of the months March, June, September, and December.
- 2. The permittee is required to submit regular quarterly reports as described above postmarked no later than the 28th day of the month following each reporting period.

Part I.C (Copy of Reports and Application to NMED) of the Permit states:

The permittee shall send a copy of discharging monitoring reports (DMRs), all other reports required in the permit, as well as a copy of application for permit renewal to New Mexico Environment Department at the mailing address listed in Part III of the permit.

Part II.A (D) of the Permit states:

The operator must submit an annual Sediment Control Report every 12 months from the approval of the Sediment Control Plan.... The permittee shall also send a copy of the annual report to the State of New Mexico Environment Department.

On the day of this inspection, NMED files did not contain a 2012 Annual SCR. Following this inspection, a 2012 Annual SCR was submitted to USEPA, with a copy submitted to NMED, in a BHP letter dated April 3, 2014.

On the day of this inspection, NMED files did not contain the 2013 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter Reclamation Inspection reports. Following this inspection, the 2013 Reclamation Inspection Reports were sent to USEPA, with a copy submitted to NMED, in a BHP letter dated March 21, 2014. Not submitting quarterly reports (at the time DMRs are due) is a repeat finding of the October 22, 2009 and August 22, 2012 CEIs.

PART III.D.11.a (Standard Conditions for NPDES Permits, Reporting Requirements Signatory Requirements) of the Permit states "All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Director shall be signed and certified."

PART III.D.11.c (Certification) of the Permit states:

Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Submitted reclamation inspection reports were signed, but did not include the certification statement.